Tobacco Board been working for maxmisation of exports from the tobacco sector. Its strategy in this connection has the following elements.

(i) Improve yield and quality of FCV tobacco;

(ii) reduce cost of cultivation/curing;

(iii) monitor and control pesticide residue;

(iv) improve granding;

(v) improve packaging of FCV tobacco and products;

(vi) increase exports of value added items like cigarettes, hookah tobacco paste, etc;

(vii) step up marketing efforts overseas.

Constitution of Fifth Wage Board for Coal Employees

*73. SHRI S. MUTHUMANI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the fifth Wage Board was to be constituted before July, 1991 and the recommendations of this wage board were to be implemented from July, 1991;

(b) if so whether any such Wage Board has been constituted to revise the salaries and benefits to employees of Coal India Ltd. and its subsidiaries; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and by when Government propose to constitute the Fifth Wage Board?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The National Coal Wage Agreement-V is drawn up on the recommendation of the Joint Bipartite Committee for Coal Industry (JBCCI) which consists of the representatives of management of coal industry and coal mine workers. Coal India Limited has been authorised to constitute JBCCI-V in consultation with JBCCI-IV. A core group consisting of representatives from JBCCI-IV has been formed to deliberate and decide the constitution of JBCCI-V.

Further, the National Front of Indian Trade Unions and Koyla Shramik Sabha have filed writ petitions in the Calcutta High Court for representation in JBCCI and have obtained interim order also. After vacation/modification of interim orders by the Calcutta High Court, attempts can be made to constitute JBCCI-V formally.

Advance Licencing Scheme for Aquaculture Based EOUS

*74. SHRI NAUNIHAL SINGH:
SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Commerce Ministry has decided to reintroduce the Advance Licencing Scheme (ALS) for aquaculture based Export Oriented Units (EOUS);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this decision is a reversal of the liberalisation policies; if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has reintroduced the scheme in order to provide immediate relief to the aquaculture and agriculture-based indutry; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (e). No, Sir. However, a proposal received in this behalf from the Ministry of Finance is under Examination.